

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Honduras
<b>Program Title:</b>	Ruling Justly
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	522-021
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$1,980,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:</b>	\$2,448,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2003
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2008

**Summary:** USAID provides assistance to strengthen and decentralize key Government of Honduras (GOH) responsibilities and authorities to the local level, improve the ability of the GOH and local governments to respond to the demands and needs of their citizens, encourage alliances between community groups and local governments, improve access to justice through alternative dispute resolution, and strengthen oversight by citizens in the management of public funds. To strengthen the justice sector and improve the rule of law in Honduras, USAID focuses on decreasing political interference through advocacy by civil society organizations, and supporting implementation of Central America and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) through introducing reform of the civil court system.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2006 Program:

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$600,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance to support legal reform, including a new Civil Procedure Code, that supports implementation of CAFTA-DR. Adoption of mediation and other alternative mechanisms for resolving civil disputes at the local level will be supported through the establishment of three alternative dispute resolution centers, which will provide mediation and other services to several municipalities. This assistance will be channeled through civil society organizations, such as the Federation of Private Development Organizations of Honduras (FOPRIDEH), to promote their effective advocacy for fighting corruption, reforming the justice sector, and improving human rights. Principal grantees will be local NGOs to be determined through a competitive process.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,380,000 DA). USAID provides technical assistance and small grants in order to increase citizen participation in local governments. USAID will also provide technical assistance and training to municipalities in financial administration, tax collection, and delivery of basic public services to citizens. USAID will assist more than 25 municipal governments during the post-election transition period, including assistance to increase citizen involvement in municipal government. USAID also assists the national municipal association to more effectively represent the interests of local governments to the federal government and to promote implementation of the National Decentralization Pact. USAID promotes regional alliances among municipalities that are too small to effectively manage and maintain public services. Principle contractors and grantees include Management Systems International (MSI), The Urban Institute, the National Association of Municipalities, and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

#### FY 2007 Program:

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$600,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance to support implementation of a new Civil Procedure Code that supports implementation of CAFTA-DR and provides a more transparent and efficient legal framework for commercial and private

transactions. Support also will be provided to civil society organizations to promote advocacy, dialogue, and public awareness of legal reform issues. Same partners as above.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,848,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide assistance to select large and small municipalities in order to increase citizen participation in decision making, the transparent administration of public funds, and the effective delivery of basic public services. In addition, continued strengthening of municipal associations/councils of governments will create economies of scale and service delivery improvements in small municipalities. Local economic development initiatives will be implemented via self-help models, and alliances will be strengthened between business entities, citizen groups, social leaders, and other stakeholders. Same partners as above.

**Performance and Results:** During 2005, citizens actively participated in the development of work plans in 32 municipalities and in transition activities in over 30 municipalities to encourage incoming administrations to retain policy and organizational expertise. In the areas of transparency and anti-corruption, oversight and monitoring of public municipal funds was improved by increasing citizen oversight and participation in anti-corruption councils; the expertise and capabilities of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) were strengthened via training on the auditing principles and practice; and by the reestablishment of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CAN).

Adoption of a new Criminal Procedure Code in 2002 led to 3,362 plea bargains and an increase in oral trials in 2005, which in turn contributed significantly to a reduction in the backlog of cases. The Supreme Court approved a draft Civil Procedure Code, and the new Judiciary Organic Law and companion Judicial Career Law were also drafted. The latter two laws are expected to improve the selection and promotion of judges based upon merit and improve the organizational structure of the courts, respectively. However, these important structural changes cannot substitute for a lack of political will to eliminate improper political influence in the justice sector. Continued support to civil society organizations and associations of judges, attorneys, and other legal professionals as advocates for change will be a key factor in ensuring the long-term sustainability of reforms. Finally, as a direct result of on-going USAID assistance, voters for the first time were able to directly elect their congressional representatives in the 2005 elections. USAID supported a voter education campaign on the new reforms, as well as a 5,600 person domestic observer program to ensure transparent elections.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Honduras

522-021 Ruling Justly	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	8,890	0
Expenditures	22	0
Unliquidated	8,868	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	4,622	150
Expenditures	4,046	123
<b>Through September 30, 2005</b>		
Obligations	13,512	150
Expenditures	4,068	123
Unliquidated	9,444	27
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	1,980	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006</b>		
Obligations	1,980	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA</b>		
Obligations	2,448	0
Future Obligations	3,604	0
Est. Total Cost	21,544	150